

Application number: 09/922489**Art Unit: 3624****Applicant: Khai Hee Kwan****Examiner: WASYLCHAK, STEVEN R****Title: Method, apparatus and program for pricing, transferring, buying, selling and exercising of financial options for paying educational course fees****Appendix 1****1-29 (CANCELLED)**

30. (NEW) A method for user to contract a future education fee amount now for an education course and optionally paying for the said contracted education fee in the future subject to gaining admission to said course, comprising the steps:

10 receiving education information from user over a network;

in response to the said information, calculating the education option price in consideration to contract the future education fee amount as determined by the user's education information where the price gives a right but not an obligation to pay the
15 said contracted fee for the selected course on the condition of being offered admission to selected course by selected institution before commencement date of selected course;

20 outputting the education option price for consideration by user,

a step for user to pay for the education option; and

whereby user is a potential student, parents, guardian or benefactor.

25 31. (NEW) The method according to claim 30, wherein the step of receiving education information comprising :

30 at least one of the first information describing the future education fee amount to be contracted, second information concerning the desired number of years before commencement of the selected course, third information concerning user past academic results, fourth information concerning user personal data, fifth information concerning the selected institution, sixth information concerning the selected course,
35 seventh information concerning the user's flexibility factor of the selected course.

40 32. (NEW) The method according to claim 30 further comprising the step of receiving an indication that a user has purchased the education option and updating a database to reflect the sale of the said option.

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33 (NEW) The method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of receiving education option sales information from an option database indicating a number of similar options that have been previously sold or written, and wherein the calculating steps use the option sales information in determining the option price.

34. (NEW) The method according to claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

receiving tender of the purchase price from the user;
scanning for any available ready seller at that price or lower;
if available performing a transaction to sell the education option to the user, and
storing information regarding said option until expired or exercise whichever is first.

35. (NEW) The method according to claim 30, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a user to exercise the education option;
verifying if user has been admitted to the selected course;
if verified performing an online financial transaction to pay the contracted education fee contracted in the education option; and
update the transaction.

36. (NEW) The method according to claim 30, wherein the education option price is based in part upon the formula below:

$$\text{Option price} = B * D * L * C * R * V;$$

whereby B is the base price for the option, D is a factor related to a desired number of years before commencement of course, L is a factor concerning the expected enrolment demand on the subject course, V is a factor concerning the volatility of the education course prices, and C is a factor related to the desirability of the user, and R is a factor related to the flexibility of the user's education plans.

37. (NEW) The method according to claim 30, further includes the step comprising :

receiving at least one of first information describing a desired number of years before commencement of course, second information concerning the expected enrolment demand on the subject course, and third information concerning the volatility of the selected education course prices, and fourth information concerning the desirability of the user, and fifth the flexibility of the user's education plans, and

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wherein said calculating step further includes utilising at least one of the said first information, said second information, said third information, said fourth information, said fifth information to calculate the education option price.

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38. (NEW) An apparatus comprising at least one data terminal communicating to a central controller wherein said controller is adapted to implement the method of claim 30.

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39. (NEW) An apparatus comprising at least one data terminal communicating to a central controller wherein said controller is adapted to implement the method of claim 31.

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40. (NEW) An apparatus comprising at least one data terminal communicating to a central controller wherein said controller is adapted to implement the method of claim 32.

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41. (NEW) An apparatus comprising at least one data terminal communicating to a central controller wherein said controller is adapted to implement the method of claim 33.

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42. (NEW) An apparatus comprising at least one data terminal communicating to a central controller wherein said controller is adapted to implement the method of claim 34.

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43. (NEW) An apparatus comprising at least one data terminal communicating to a central controller wherein said controller is adapted to implement the method of claim 35.

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44. (NEW) An apparatus comprising at least one data terminal communicating to a central controller wherein said controller is adapted to implement the method of claim 36.

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45. (NEW) An apparatus comprising at least one data terminal communicating to a central controller wherein said controller is adapted to implement the method of claim 37.

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46. (NEW) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of Claim 30.

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47. (NEW) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of Claim 31.

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48. (NEW) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of Claim 32.

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49. (NEW) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of Claim 35.

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50. (NEW) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable storage medium implementing the method of Claim 36.

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51. (NEW) A method of offering to lock a future education fee amount for a selected education course comprising the steps :

inquiring the education course price;

receiving an offer to lock a future education fee amount payable within a fixed period for a particular course subject to being granted admission; and
paying the offer at the offer price.

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52. (NEW) A data processing apparatus for user to contract with an institution a future education fee amount now and paying for the said education fee in the future subject to being granted admission comprising:

a CPU;

40 a database element connected to said CPU;

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a memory operatively connected to said CPU, said memory containing a program adapted to be executed by said CPU and said CPU and memory co-operatively adapted to receive user's education information;

- 5 to calculate a price to contract a future education fee amount of user's choosing which is payable within a future period, for a particular education course subject to gaining admission to said course; and

outputting the said price for consideration by user.

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53. (NEW) The data processing apparatus of claim 52 wherein said memory is adapted to contract the future education fee amount of user's choosing in response to receiving an indication that user has paid the contracting price.

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54. (NEW) A system for selling an education option locking in a future education cost comprising :

- 20 a terminal adapted to communicate with a central controller that calculates an education option price as consideration for a contract with rights but not obligation to pay the future education fee amount for an education course within a specified future period, for a particular education course with a selected institution wherein said contract includes a condition of admission to the institution before selected course
- 25 commencement date;

30 said terminal adapted to transmit to the central controller user's education information comprising at least one of the first information describing the proposed future education fee amount to be contracted, second information concerning the desired number of years before commencement of the selected course, third information concerning user past academic results, fourth information concerning user personal data, fifth information concerning the selected institution, sixth information concerning the selected course, seventh information concerning the user's flexibility factor of the selected course; and

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if said user information satisfying selected institution's requirements, further adapted to receive from the central controller the option price satisfying the said user's information with the selected institution.

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55. (NEW) The system according to claim 54, wherein said terminal is further adapted to transmit a user's request to purchase the education option and to perform a

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financial transaction satisfying the education option price payable to the selected institution.

- 5 56. (NEW) The system according to claim 54, wherein said terminal is further adapted to transmit a user's request to exercise the education option and to perform a financial transaction satisfying the contracted education fee amount payable to the selected institution whereby said exercise request is subject to the user having gain admission to the course.
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57. (NEW) The system according to claim 54, wherein said terminal is further adapted to transmit a user's request to sell an existing education option.
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58. (NEW) The system according to claim 54, wherein said host controller is further adapted to an electronic education option exchange.
- 20 59. (NEW) A method for user to contract a future education fee amount now and optionally paying for the said education fee in the future; comprising the steps:
- receiving education information from user over a network;
- 25 in response to the said information, calculating the education option price wherein the calculating is based in part upon the formula below:
- Option price = $B * D * L * C * R * V$;
- 30 whereby B is the base price for the option, D is a factor related to a desired number of years before commencement of course, L is a factor concerning the expected enrolment demand on the subject course, V is a factor concerning the volatility of the education course prices, and C is a factor related to the desirability of the user, and R is a factor related to the flexibility of the user's education plans;
- 35 outputting the education option price for consideration by user,
- a step for user to accept by paying for the education option ; and
- 40 a step to revise education information.